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SUBJECT: Adana Governor, Jandarma and Air Force leadership
urge U.S. action versus KHK

THIS CABLE IS FROM CONSULATE ADANA.

1. (SBU) Summary: On the margins of the 39th Air Base Wing March 12 change of command, Adana governor Kemal Onal, as well as area Jandarma and Air Force generals, approached PO to urge the U.S. to take near-term action against KHK/Kongra Gel in northern Iraq. Adana Jandarma Major General Abdulkadir Eryilmaz said that the March 8 Batman province explosion had been caused by a mine placed under an asphalt road with an excavated underground channel leading to a remote site for a detonator a short distance from the mine explosion area. Adana Governor Onal also observed that the community situated immediately behind the new consulate building is a pro-Kurdish Democratic People's Party (DEHAP) stronghold and offered that our existing rear wall was inadequate for perimeter security. End summary.

It is time to go after KHK/Kongra Gel in Iraq

2. (SBU) On the margins of the 39th Air Base Wing March 12 change of command, Adana governor and former Turkish National Police Director Onal, as well as Adana Jandarma Major General Abdulkadir Eryilmaz and Air Force Brigadier General Levent Turkmen approached PO to urge the U.S. to take near-term action against KHK/Kongra Gel in northern Iraq. Onal, after discussing his learning of the March 8 Batman possible landmine attack on a Jandarma unit, asked when the U.S. planned to "tackle the terrorist elements in northern Iraq and end the threat to the southeast Turkey region?" When PO observed that the U.S. long had deemed the PKK - and now KHK - a terrorist organization, that the President had committed the U.S. to ridding Iraq of all terrorist groups and that CPA Ambassador Bremer had stated clearly that KHK is a terrorist element in Iraq that would be treated as such, Onal acknowledged the U.S. position, but noted that more was now necessary. Turkmen urged the U.S. to give U.S. troops in northern Iraq clear rules of engagement to specify the need to attack the KHK and to conduct offensive operations against KHK soonest. Major General Eryilmaz recalled the landmine attack, said it reminded him of PKK attacks "from the old days," and noted that the "weather is getting nice here now," suggesting that seasonal weather was bringing favorable conditions for offensive military campaigning in the region.

3. (SBU) PO stressed that a multi-disciplinary counterterrorism effort in consultation with Turkey was necessary to deal with all aspects of the KHK challenge, noting that the U.S. had been in a dialogue with Ankara authorities about the issue for some time. Onal acknowledged this ongoing discussion, noted Turkey had passed the reform package law, but added that the time for U.S. action had come. Turkmen said that the "reintegration law had failed to attract (KHK) cadres from the hills." Onal continued, however, by noting that "a general amnesty is not an option; it will not happen." PO urged consideration of a wide range of complementary tools to accomplish our common counterterrorism agenda, with Onal and Turkmen generally agreeing and Jandarma Major General Eryilmaz generally quiet.

Batman attack was a landmine, Jandarma says

4.(SBU) Jandarma Major General Eryilmaz said that the March 8 Batman province explosion had been caused by a mine placed under an asphalt road with an excavated underground channel leading to a remote site for a detonator a short distance from the mine explosion area. He said that he had spoken with the Jandarma commander in the area at an unspecified time soon after the attack and had heard the specifics directly from him. PO conveyed U.S. condolences to the Jandarma for their loss. Major General Eryilmaz said that the attack bore the hallmark of PKK attacks "from the old days" and noted that Jandarma in the deep southeast (Mardin, Sirnak, Batman, Siirt, and Hakkari) were anxious about the possibility of significant KHK attacks in the coming spring season.

New consulate in bad neighborhood

5.(SBU) Adana governor - and former Turkish National Police Director - also observed that the community situated immediately behind the new consulate building is a pro-Kurdish Democratic People's Party (DEHAP) stronghold and offered that our existing rear wall was inadequate for perimeter security. He suggested that the U.S. should strengthen the rear perimeter wall and add more lighting and maybe a different gate. "My special operations police (posted in the rear of the new consulate compound) are good, but they do not need a weak defensive wall to make a possible rear attack on your compound attractive," he noted. While noting that the new front and corner wall are higher and have good anti-vehicle features, he said that he wished it had an outward canting screen to prevent hand grenades from being lobbed into the consulate compound. Both Governor Onal and Brigadier General Turkmen said the entire compound could use more perimeter lighting as well. Governor Onal said that he would be glad when consulate construction is complete in late spring.

16. (SBU) Comment: We value the governor's insight into the political affiliation of the neighborhood behind the new consulate site. However, we tend to discount the comments about the perimeter security since government figures have not been apprised of our continuing security construction program. End comment.

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